

REMARKS

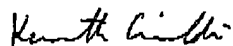
Claims 1 and 3-12 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 3 and 9 are independent. No claims have been amended, canceled or added in this Response. Claims 3-5 and 9 were found to be allowable.

Claims 1, 6-8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Yamaguchi. Applicants traverse this rejection.

The composition taught by Yamaguchi contains 15 parts MIT and 20 parts MBI, or a 1:1.33 ratio of MIT:MBI. Claim 1 recites a ratio of 750:1 to 1:1. Therefore, the rejected claims recite ranges of biocide ratios not disclosed in the references. Applicants have demonstrated the existence of unexpected synergistic interaction between MIT and MBI in the claimed range of ratios (see summary table, page 10). Therefore, the reference cannot render the present invention obvious.

If the Examiner has any concerns regarding the application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney by telephone to discuss the issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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